



2015 ANNUAL REPORT: JACKSON COUNTY

UGA Extension is working hard for your constituents. Here are some examples of successful projects completed in your county over the past year:

Jackson County Archers Hit a Bull's-Eye

This year continued a trend of success for Jackson County 4-H's archery program. This season, 69 archers were trained under the caring hands of 14 coaches. The team dedicated more than 100 hours to practice and more than 14 competitions. Building on a tradition of commemorating a 4-H archery family that suffered tragic loss, Jackson County hosted the Godfrey Tournament. Through the tournament, more than \$7,000 was raised. That money will go toward procuring a facility dedicated to the 4-H archery program. The season concluded with the Senior Recurve Archery Team being named the state-winning team, which ensured them a spot in the 4-H Shooting Sports National Championships in Nebraska. The robotics team continues to grow in members and accomplishments. The FIRST LEGO League, which was one team in 2014, is now represented by three teams from Jackson County 4-H. The First Robotics Competition (FRC) continued to be very competitive. The FRC team was proud to have an outstanding individual that was overall state winner of the Georgia 4-H Youth Innovator of the Year contest.

Providing for the Health of Beef Cattle

Jackson County continues to rank in the top 10 counties for beef production in Georgia. The Jackson County University of Georgia Cooperative Extension Agriculture and Natural Resources agent saw the need to provide programming specific to the health and nutrition of beef cattle. The three programs for 2015 were presented with the help of state experts. The first of the three programs was a PowerPoint presentation on the importance of knowing the nutritional qualities of specific forages and the need to sample hay to ensure that cattle's nutritional needs are met. The second program highlighted the importance of evaluating the health and nutritional needs of local



herds. Following the evaluation training, the UGA livestock specialist explained how to balance the ratio of forage/hay to supplemental feedstuffs in order to meet health and nutritional needs. The third program covered dystocia and calf-pulling simulations. During the program, the Extension beef specialist – livestock and forage program team leader – explained how health and nutrition play a vital role in preventing reproduction complications. The county agent coordinated the three programs with the assistance of leaders from the county who specialize in cattle production. A total of 106 cattlemen participated in the three programs.

Family and Consumer Sciences

Although Jackson County Extension does not have a Family and Consumer Sciences agent based in its office, we still strive to assist local residents with their questions. Common questions asked are in regard to food safety, food preservation, dealing with mold and mildew, healthy meal planning, family budgeting and SNAP-Ed materials. These topics and more are answered through a wide variety of free UGA Extension publications available at the county office or through phone conferences with Family and Consumer Sciences Extension agents in surrounding counties. Often, neighboring agents are conducting programming that our county residents are welcome to attend, and we can provide information on registration.

COUNTY AT A GLANCE

Population: 66,734

2015 Georgia County Guide, University of Georgia

Health Factors Ranking: 19/159

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

4-H Enrollment: 1,156

Georgia 4-H Enrollment System FY15

Farm Gate Value: \$313,060,234

2014 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report

Agriculture, Food and Fiber-Related Total Economic Contribution:

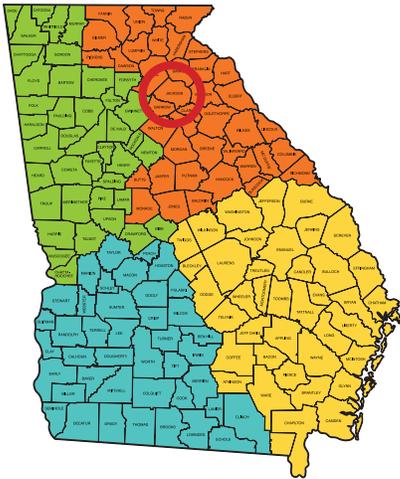
Jobs: 3,778

Output: \$838,198,864

University of Georgia Center for Agribusiness and Economic Development

Top Commodities: Broilers, Layers, Beef

2014 Georgia Farm Gate Value Report



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

was founded in 1914 by the federal Smith-Lever Act. It's a unique partnership between UGA, county governments and the USDA's system of land-grant universities. Today, UGA Extension serves more than 2.6 million Georgians annually through a network of specialists, agents and staff by providing unbiased, research-based information driven by local needs and clientele input. From publications to in-person workshops and events, Extension is ready to meet the needs of the state and communities. For every dollar invested in UGA Extension, \$3 is returned to Georgia's economy, saving money in the long run.

The University of Georgia is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.

Agriculture & Natural Resources

Georgia's agriculture and natural resource goods and services impact every community of the state every day. It's the state's largest industry with \$74 billion of direct and indirect economic impact. More than 411,000 jobs in Georgia are involved directly in commodity or food- and fiber-related industries.

UGA Extension faculty and staff play a key role in the success of this industry by sharing university-based research for Georgians to use on the farm and at home. Recommendations in areas such as soil fertility, pest management, plant and crop varieties, water quality, and herd health and management focus on maximizing production and profits while minimizing environmental impacts.

Agriculture and Natural Resources Extension agents also provide homeowners and communities with information on lawn care, landscaping and gardening through a variety of workshops. Some agents also work with schools on programs, like farm-to-school, as well as with community gardens. Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteers give thousands of hours of service to their communities through educational opportunities and by answering questions in the county office.

4-H Youth Development

As the youth development program of UGA Extension, 4-H is part of a national network. Georgia 4-H reaches more than 175,000 students in the state, ages 9 to 19, through developing knowledge, life skills and attitudes that will enable them to become self-directing, productive and contributing members of society. This mission is fulfilled through hands-on, core learning experiences in agricultural and environmental awareness, leadership, communication skills, foods and nutrition, health, energy conservation, and citizenship.

Georgia 4-H'ers are well known for sharing their knowledge and volunteering throughout their communities. Students can participate in school and county club meetings organized by 4-H Youth Development Extension agents as well as the state level through competitions, summer camps and conferences. Some 4-H competitions and events are also offered regionally and nationally.

Research indicates that as a result of 4-H, members are more engaged in their academic studies, less likely to be involved in risky behavior and more likely to graduate from high school and continue their education than youth who do not participate in 4-H.



Family & Consumer Sciences

Family and Consumer Sciences Extension specialists, agents and staff assist in addressing real-life issues faced by Georgians of all ages. They provide the latest information and programs on obesity, chronic disease, food and financial insecurity, family stresses, and unhealthy housing, food safety and preservation, nutrition, and more.

UGA Extension offers resources for parents, caregivers and others to help promote the positive development and safety of pre-school, school-age and adolescent youth. Extension professionals in this program area lead consumer economics trainings and programs such as ServSafe®, Relationship Smarts and PRIDE — a parent and teen driving education course.

Extension also promotes healthy lifestyles through statewide programs. Walk Georgia — a virtual, fitness-tracking resource — encourages increasing physical fitness and healthy lifestyles in order to improve the wellbeing of communities. Other health programs managed by UGA include the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-ED). These classes teach families how to stretch their food dollars, eat healthier meals and snacks, and reduce the risk of foodborne illnesses.